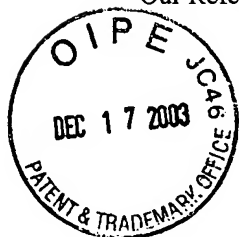


PATENT
Our Reference No. D5462-3001



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Harvey Philip Dickens)
Serial No.: 10/085,330)
Filed: February 28, 2002)
For: **TRENCHING MACHINE**)

Group Art Unit: 3671

Examiner: Robert Eric Pezzuto

RECEIVED

DEC 24 2003

GROUP 3600

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find the following documents:

1. Amendment and response to the office action mailed September 17, 2003;
2. Return receipt postcard; and,
3. Express mailing certificate.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any associated fees to Deposit Account No. 500977.

Respectfully submitted,
BUCHALTER, NEMER, FIELDS & YOUNGER

Date: December 17, 2003

By: Karin E. Peterka
Karin E. Peterka
BUCHALTER, NEMER, FIELDS & YOUNGER
601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2400
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5704
(213) 891-0700 (Telephone)

"EXPRESS MAIL" mailing label number EL 8732-81034US

Date of Deposit: December 17, 2003.

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Teresa L. Goss
Signature

TERESA L. GOSS
Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee